(a) the total number of villages so far covered by telephone and postal services separately in the State of Haryana and by when all the villages are likely to be covered with these two services;

(b) how many towns in the State of Haryana have Electronic Telephone Exchanges and by when all the exchanges in Haryana will be converted into Electronic Exchanges; and

(c) the total number of telephones in the State of Haryana in rural and urban areas separately and what is the target for the release of new connections during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) (i) The total number of villages in Haryana covered with public telephone service upto 31.01.1996 is 5127. All the villages are likely to have such service by the year 1997.

(ii) The total number of villages in Haryana with post office service upto 31.01.1996 is 2270. There is no such plan to cover all the villages with post office service. However, delivery of mails is being done daily in all the villages of Haryana.

(b) 642 towns in the State of Haryana have Electronic Telephone Exchanges upto 31.01.1996. All the exchanges in Haryana will be converted into Electronic Exchanges progressively by 31.03.1997.

(c) Total number of telephones in the State of Haryana as on 31.01.1996 is 268836, out of which 225905 are provided in urban and 42931 in rural areas respectively. The target for release of new connections during 1996-97 is 69600.

MOUs Signed between India and Canada for the Promotion of Trade

598. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of agreements and MOUs were signed during the recent visit of Canadian Prime Minister to India in January this year; for mutual cooperation and promotion of trade etc. between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether during the talks, he insisted on imposition of social clause like child labour restrictions, if so, the details in this regard and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation, and MOUs for cooperation in the sectors of Surface Transport, Telecommunications and Heavy Oil were signed at the Governmental level. 78 commercial agreements valued at C$ 3.39 billion (Rs. 8692 crores) including business contracts, MOUs and Letters of Intent were signed between Indian and Canadian companies during the visit. These covered the sectors of power, transporation, environment, telecommunications, computer software, food processing, medical equipment and financial services.

(c) The Canadian Prime Minister referred to the tragedy of child labour and the economic exploitation of children in his address to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry on January 13, 1996. During bilateral talks, the Canadian Premier was briefed on the various measures that are being taken to eliminate child labour in India starting with the prohibition of child labour in hazardous industries.

Procurement of Pair Gain System

599. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government procured subscriber carrier (pair gain system) from a manufacturer in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, how many systems have been procured and at what cost;

(c) how many of these systems have been installed till 31st December, 1995 and are in operation;

(d) what has been the performance of these systems in regard to quality and reliability;